TRIBUTE TO MAUREEN STAPLETON

CAPITAL REPERTORY COMPANY
THE MARKET THEATRE • MAY 1st, 1983

CAPITAL REPERTORY COMPANY

presents

A TRIBUTE TO MAUREEN STAPLETON

Written and Adapted

by

CHRIS CERASO

DIRECTED by MICHAEL J. HUME

Featuring:

Kate Kelly
Joan Kendall
Sofia Landon
Carla Meadows

The staged performance will include excerpts from:

Playboy of the Western World by J.M. Synge

Village girl scene: Kate Kelly
Sofia Landon
Carla Meadows

The Sea Gull by Anton Chekhov

Act III, Masha: Carla Meadows

Toys in the Attic by Lillian Hellman

Act III, Carrie Berniers: Kate Kelly

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

Scene 6, Amanda: Joan Kendall

The Little Foxes by Lillian Hellman

Act III, Aunt Birdie: Sofia Landon

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We honor Maureen Stapleton and her work.

MAUREEN STAPLETON'S career is diverse and highly successful. She received her first Tony Award in 1951 for her portrayal of Serafina in Tennessee Williams' "The Rose Tattoo." Her second Tony was awarded in 1971 for her performance as Evy Meara in "The Gingerbread Lady" by Neil Simon. Considered the greatest interpreter of Tennessee Williams' heroines, Miss Stapelton has also portrayed Amanda in "The Glass Menagerie," and Lady Torrence in "Orpheus Descending." Before winning the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in 1982 for her magnificent portrayal of Emma Goldman in "Reds," Miss Stapleton was nominated for the same award three times for performances in "Lonelyhearts," "Airport" and "Interiors." She also won an Emmy Award for her performance in "Among the Paths to Eden." Miss Stapleton is a native of Troy and enjoys frequent visits to this area. We are honored to have her in our theater today.

KATE KELLY was seen last season as Estelle in "Feathers" and Annie in "Table Manners." She is a founding member of LTA/Capital Rep where in seven seasons she has been in over 12 main stage productions. Kate has appeared on Broadway in "Utter Glory of Morrissey Hall" and "The Skin our Our Teeth" and Off Broadway at the Hudson Guild, Playwrights Horizons and Circle Rep. Among her regional credits: "The Lady from Dubuque" at Hartford Stage, "Sea Marks" at Portland Stage, Peg in "Peg O' My Heart" at the American Theatre Festival and a season in the second company at Williamstown. Kate has toured in the first national companies of "Bedroom Farce" as Kate and "Finishing Touches" as Elsie.

JOAN KENDALL was last seen here as Mrs. Antrobus in "The Skin of Our Teeth." Recently she understudied and performed the role of Mom in "True West" for 5 months opposite John Malkovich and Gary Sinise at the Cherry Lane in New York. Last summer she played the lead in George Furth's "Supporting Cast" at the St. Michael's Playhouse in Winooski, Vermont. She appeared at Syracuse Stage in "A Doll's House," as Hope Ames in Philip Barry's "Hotel Universe" at Olney Theatre, and as Myra Tackleberry in "Right Bed, Wrong Husband" at Cecilwood Playhouse. Off Broadway, Joan played Mrs. Sands in Pinter's "The Room" for over 200 performances and understudied and replaced Frances Sternhagen in that author's "A Slight Ache." Off Off Broadway she has created roles at ATA, Westside-Mainstage and Eccentric Circle Theatre. She played the mother in "All My Sons" for VETCO. Joan plays the teacher in "The Immigrant Experience" on PBS.

SOFIA LANDON last appeared at Capital Rep as Blanche DuBois in "A Streetcar Named Desire," and in the 1980 season as Pam in "Joe Egg." Sofia is also a veteran of five seasons with the Lexington Conservatory Theatre, where she appeared in "Our Town," "Tis Pity She's a Whore," "The Prevalence of Mrs.

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Seal," "Grinder's Stand," "Close Ties," the last three being world premiere productions. In addition to her work as an actress, Sofia directed several staged readings for the company and was the guiding force behind WLTA, a group which produced readings of new plays written by and about women. Very active in New York City's Off Broadway scene, Sofia received a Drama Desk nomination for her "irrepressible Irish tomboy" heroine of "Peg O' My Heart" at The Lion Theatre Company. After three and a half years as the villainous Diane Ballard on the CBS daytime drama "The Guiding Light," Sofia toured with legendary actress Miss Eva LeGallienne in "To Grandmother's House We Go." Most recently Sofia has been performing in "Ecco!" at the Portland Stage Company.

CARLA MEADOWS was seen this season in our Provos series, appearing in "Ice Dreams" and "Legacy." She performed in "Arlecchino Undone" at Lexington Conservatory Theatre, Capital Reg's forerunner. A resident of Manhattan, Carla is also a member of the Ensemble Studio Theatre.

CHRIS CERASO (Adaptor), acted for the first time at Capital Rep last season as Valere in "Tartuffe." In 1980, his play "Arlecchino Undone" was produced at Lexington Conservatory Theatre. Chris' involvement with the company began with a Provos reading of his play, "Nesting." Recent acting credits, work at New York's Ensemble Studio Theatre, where Chris is also a playwright/actor member, the American premiere of Trevor Griffiths' "Occupations," and "Anthony and Cleopatra" and "kean" at Hartford Stage Company. Off Broadway in New York, Chris appeared in Christoper Durang's "Nature and Purpose of the Universe." He toured for a season with Florida's Asolo Theatre, and served for two years on the theatre faculty at the University of Bridgeport, Ct.

MICHAEL J. HUME (Director) directed Capital Rep's season finale, "The Skin of Our Teeth" and appeared as Damis in "Tartuffe" and Dan Loggins in "The Mound Builders." Last season's roles include Steve Hubbell in "A Streetcar Named Desire," Victor Frankenstein in "Frankenstein" as well as directing "Table Manners." A founding member of LCT, he appeared in over 20 productions, among them, "Hail Scrawdyke!," "The Country Wife," "Faustus," "The Tavern," "Of Mice and Men" and the direction of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Other regional credits include the American Conservatory Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Clarence Brown Company, Hartman Theatre Company, Portland Stage Company, as well as NYC productions with the Manhattan Theatre Club, Playwrights Horizons, New Dramatists, HB Studios, etc. He is currently a faculty member for the Skidmore College Theatre Department.

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HISTORY

The League of Théatre Artists, Inc. (LTA) began its first project, Lexington Conservatory Theatre (LCT), in 1976.

As word spread of LCT's innovativeness, having produced 32 productions and 36 new play readings, audiences and critics alike from the Capital District discovered the company. In the fall of 1980 the Capital District became the home of LTA's new project: Capital Repertory Company. The enormous success of the new company's debut, THE TAVERN, in March 1980, led to the opening of Capital Rep's inaugural season in December 1980. Three productions —JOE EGG, SORROWS OF STEPHEN and THE HOSTAGE — and readings of four new plays were presented by March 1981.

Beginning in August 1981 Capital Rep has: built a new management structure; begun to reduce an old deficit; secured a 15,000 square foot supermarket (the former Grand Cash Market, rent free, utilities included), and through *contributed* labor and materials renovated it into a 258-seat thrust stage theatre with production and administrative support areas. More than 50 area businesses contributed materials, and over 50 members of nine building and trade unions contributed hundreds of hours of hands-on assistance to the renovation. To date, the total value of the contributed renovation is in excess of $125,000. In addition, Capital Rep now has an expanded, formal Board of Trustees, and a volunteer organization called Capital Repertory Extra Workers (CREW).

The 1981-82 season, the first in the newly created Market Theatre, ran from March 6, 1982 through May 23, 1982. Four productions — TABLE MANNERS, A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE, FEATHERS and FRANKENSTEIN — as well as five new play readings, were presented.

Now, as Capital Rep closes its third season and looks forward to its fourth, it continues to grow by adding to the number of schedule performances; Preview and Wednesday Matinees, and offering increased savings for Senior Citizens and Students. With the continued support of the many communities it serves, Capital Rep can realize its dream of communicating its unique and dynamic theatrical vision to Capital District audiences for many years to come.

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